(b) what are the proposals and plans to project the Andaman and Nicobar as a major tourist attraction in the country; and

(c) what are the plans to develop and promote other beaches in the country as tourist attraction?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) According to a media report, a German Tour Operator, Mr. De Ruiter had selected the world's best ten beaches. Top ranking was given to Andaman Islands followed by Lakshadweep islands, the Maldives and Seychelles. His assessment has been based on verifiable factors such as sand quality, depth of water etc. TIME Magazine had earlier declared beach No. 7, Havelock Island in Andamans as the "Best Beach in Asia".

(b) Publicity support has been given to project the Andaman & Nicobar Islands as high value tourist destination.

(c) The Department of Tourism extends central financial assistance to States/UTs for development of tourism projects including development of beaches which are prioritized in consultation with them, subject to inter-se priority and availability of funds.

Protection of historical buildings

†1600. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government take care of the protected historical buildings;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number and names of such buildings, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There are 3667 centrally protected monuments/ sites which have been declared as of national importance under the provision of section 4 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. The list of centrally protected monuments State-wise is enclosed as statement (*see* below). The Archaeological Survey of India looks after the maintenance, conservation, preservation and development of environment of these centrally protected monuments in accordance with archaeological norms.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

Centrally protected monuments under Archaeological Survey of India

Sl.No.	Name of State	No. of Monuments
1.	Andhra Pradesh	137
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	05
3.	Assam	53
4.	Bihar	70
5.	Chhattisgarh	47
6.	Daman & Diu (U.T.)	12
7.	Goa	21
8.	Gujarat	202
9.	Haryana	90
10.	Himachal Pradesh	40
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	69
12.	Jharkhand	12
13.	Karnataka	507
14.	Kerala	26
15.	Madhya Pradesh	286
16.	Maharashtra	286
17.	Manipur	01
18.	Meghalaya	08
19.	Nagaland	04
20.	N.C.T. Delhi	175
21.	Orissa	78
22.	Pondicherry (U.T.)	07
23.	Punjab	31
24.	Rajasthan	162
25.	Sikkim	03
26.	Tamil Nadu	413
27.	Tripura	05
28.	Uttar Pradesh	742
29.	Uttaranchal	42
30.	West Bengal	133
	TOTAL:	3667